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Tricks and Treats for Your October Home

by *homewarranty.com*

October begins with beautiful, crisp mornings and ends with a fright. For some of us, the fright isn't Halloween, it's knowing the busy holiday season is near. Work your way through our checklist of tricks and treats for your October home. By the end of the month, you'll be fearless.

1. Make Sure Your Porch is Safe

Before trick-or-treaters are ringing your doorbell this month, make sure your exterior porch lights are in working order, and you have sufficient lighting. Decorative pumpkins and Jack-o-lanterns should be kept clear of your steps and doorway.

2. Clean Your Gutters

Make sure your gutters and downspouts are ready for Mother Nature. After most of the leaves have fallen, take time to clear out debris from your gutters. Water should flow through your gutters and downspouts easily and away from your home's foundation. If your home is more than one story, hire a pro.

3. Check for Roof and Siding Damage

If you see any damaged areas to your roof, siding or shingles, it is important to take care of the problem before winter storms come through. Keep an eye out for missing, cracked, or warped shingles or siding. Consider a roof inspection with a local inspector from a reputable company like BPG Inspections.

4. Give Your Porch a Makeover

Refresh pots with fall flowers, clean front windows and use a broom or soft brush to clean up siding. An armful of decorative gourds and pumpkins makes an easy display that will last all month.

5. Check Safety Devices

Every home should have a carbon monoxide detector, as well as smoke detectors positioned throughout the house. Test that yours are in working order, and change batteries if needed. According to safety.com, smoke detectors should be installed on every level of your home to detect rising smoke. They should be placed inside or directly outside of each bedroom and common areas, and in laundry rooms and kitchens where fires can originate.

6. Go Shopping...But Only for Certain Things

With Black Friday around the corner, you won't find deals on things like electronics and appliances. However, October is a great month to shop for jeans, outdoor patio furniture, yard equipment, outdoor sporting equipment, and certain camping equipment.

7. Store Outdoor Furniture and Tools

Rather than leave your outdoor furniture outdoors all winter, put it away in a shed or the basement. This month, make a plan to clean your gardening tools and put them away neatly. Your "spring" self will thank you for the effort.

October Calendar

October 8 - Yom Kippur Begins

October 14 - Columbus Day

October 16 - Bosses Day

October 31 - Halloween

Homeowner Tip:



Does Your Furnace Function?

Fall is the perfect time to make sure your furnace is operating properly. You probably haven't turned on your heating system for several months. Simply turn it to its heat setting and test it today. If it fails to operate properly, call a technician right away before the busy season of winter arrives and leaves you out in the cold for a few days.

Halloween Candy Trivia - The Sweet and the Sour Truth

1. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups were 2017's most popular Halloween candy. And who can argue with that? Other favorites included Snickers, Twix, Kit Kats, Nerds, Sour Patch Kids, and Skittles.

2. The candy most likely to be traded away by Trick-or-Treaters? Circus Peanuts, wax coke bottles, Necco Wafers, Mary Janes, Tootsie Rolls, Smarties, black licorice, and Good & Plenty.

3. Candy corn is one of the holiday's most-produced candies. Since its invention in 1898, candy corn has become wildly popular.

Nearly 35 million pounds are produced each year.

4. You don't have to rush to eat your (children's) Halloween candy. Dark and milk chocolates can last up to two years if stored in a dry, odor-free spot. Hard candy can last up to a year, and unopened packages of candy corn can last nine months.

5. What day is more popular for candy than Halloween you ask? None! When it comes to candy sales, more than twice as much chocolate is sold as on Valentine's Day.

For full article visit womansday.com



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Cozy Classic Chili Mac & Cheese

Give your goblins the perfect early dinner treat before they head out the door.

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp. canola oil
- 1 large white onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 15-oz. can fire-roasted diced tomatoes
- 1 15-oz. can kidney beans
- 1 tbsp. chili powder
- 1 tbsp. cumin
- 1 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 3 c. low-sodium chicken broth
- 12 oz. pasta, such as orecchiette or shells

- 2 c. shredded Cheddar
- Chopped fresh chives, for garnish

Directions:

In a large pot over medium heat, heat oil. Add onion and cook until tender, then add garlic and stir until fragrant, 1 minute. Add ground beef and cook until no longer pink, about 5 minutes. Drain fat.

Add diced tomatoes, kidney beans, chili powder, cumin, cayenne, chicken broth, and pasta and bring to a simmer. Simmer until pasta is al dente, 14 to 15 minutes.

Remove from heat and stir in cheddar until just melted. Garnish with chives and serve.



*Photo & recipe courtesy of delish.com
<http://bit.ly/2J5tIGX>*